



United States Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
United States Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service



Fish and Wildlife Service
510 Desmond Drive S.E., Suite 102
Lacey, Washington 98503

National Marine Fisheries Service
510 Desmond Drive S.E., Suite 103
Lacey, Washington 98503

JUL 14 2005

Dear Reviewer of Public Comment Letters:

This letter provides an explanation of the online posting of public comment letters received on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the State of Washington Draft Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan. The 90-day public comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and associated State of Washington Draft Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan was February 11th through May 12th, 2005. To facilitate numerous requests for public inspection of the comments, all comments received during the public comment period are posted on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Western Washington Office website (<http://www.fws.gov/pacific/westwafwo/consplan/docs.html>).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service (Services) are currently in the process of reviewing the public comments that were received. The Services' response to public comments will be available to the public in the Final Environmental Impact Statement in a Response to Comments section of that document.

Public comment letters are posted on the above website as hyperlinked files found in Table 1, which follows this letter. Table 1 lists each commenter with a corresponding unique identification number issued by the Services. When viewing the list of commenters in Table 1, please note that there are some letters that do not hyperlink to the corresponding letter. The Services received three distinct form letters that numerous people submitted. We have posted only one of each distinct form letter, which accounts for the missing hyperlinked files in Table 1.

The first form letter is identified as 5, the second form letter is identified as 305, and the third form letter is identified as 453. The following numbered comment letters are not included in the list of hyperlinked files in Table 1, since they are identical letters, submitted by different individuals identified in Table 1.

Letter 5 Represents the Same Comment Letter as Letter Numbers:

6-19, 21-35, 37-67, 69-71, 73, 76-79, 82, 84, 86-93, 95, 97, 99-101, 104-105, 109-111, 117-118, 128-129, 132-133, 136-139, 143-147, 149-151, 153, 155-156, 159-160, 162, 166-168, 170, 179-221, 223-232, 241, 246, 249-253, 258, 260-268, 271-281, 284, 288-295, 299, 406, 408, 422, 423, 425, 426, 447, 575, 577-580, 713, 727-733, 791-795, 797-803, 805-807.

Letter 305 Represents the Same Comment Letter as Letter Numbers:

306-404, 543-558.

Letter 453 Represents the Same Comment Letter as Letter Numbers:

454-458, 459, 460, 465, 471, 477-478, 480-482, 484, 486-490, 492, 498, 504-506, 510-511, 516-518, 520-521, 523, 532, 534, 537, 573, 583, 584, 586, 588-589, 592, 594-599, 601-602, 605-606, 609-610, 612, 614-619, 621-629, 631-635, 642-644, 709-710, 742, 775-777, 789.

In addition to the above explanation, six comment letters were received by fax that were partially unreadable with no readable sender information. From what the Services can discern, these letters are almost certainly the same letters as the form letter 5. Nineteen comment letters were received after May 12th, 2005, the closing date of the public comment period. These letter numbers are noted at the bottom of Table 1 and are not posted on the web. In these 19 letters, there were no unique or significant comments contained within the letters that were not captured in other letters received within the comment period.

For all comment letters posted on the web, all associated attachments that were submitted with individual letters are also included in that letter's hyperlinked file. There are two exceptions: Letter number 407 and letter number 559 each submitted large volumes of attachments along with their comments. These attachments will not be posted on the web. However, it is anticipated that an index of the attachments will be made available and posted to the web by July 31st, 2005.

If you have questions about the posting of the public comments, please contact Sally Butts, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at (360) 753-5832, who will assist you on behalf of both Federal agencies.

Sincerely,

for Craig Hansen
Ken S. Berg, Manager
Western Washington Fish and Wildlife Office
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Matt Jorgensen for

Steven W. Landino
Washington State Director
For Habitat Conservation